

## **Crestridge Ecological Reserve**

The Crestridge Ecological Reserve is located near the unincorporated community of Lakeside in southern San Diego County, immediately east of the City of El Cajon. The property, initially 2,377 acres, is situated between the small community of Crest to the south and Interstate 8 (I-8) to the north. This property has some small areas of past development or disturbance, but is primarily composed of relatively undisturbed southern mixed chaparral, coastal sage scrub, riparian woodland, oak woodland, and a small amount of annual grassland. Despite being surrounded by medium and low density development, the site supports many valuable biological and archeological resources. Besides the value of the habitats on-site, the property also serves an important connectivity function within the MSCP preserve system.



**Figure 5:** Crestridge Ecological Reserve

The property provides a terrestrial wildlife corridor to the east and north, linking natural lands south of I-8 to lands north of the freeway via Harbison and Chocolate Canyons. The western portion of the property supports some coastal sage scrub habitat, which is part of the important sage scrub corridor connecting habitats in the Dehesa/Sweetwater River area to the Lakeside Linkage, a critical series of sage scrub islands immediately north of I-8. The Lakeside Linkage is the only sage scrub corridor across I-8, and is very important to sustaining connectivity between California gnatcatcher populations, and other bird species, south of I-8 with those to the north. At the end of 2003, the Department received 261 acres of primarily coastal sage scrub habitat land which was added to the western portion of the reserve (bringing the total size of the reserve to 2,638

acres) (Figure 6). This land was transferred to the Department by the San Diego County Water Authority. This property was acquired by the Water Authority to mitigate impacts to sage scrub and the California gnatcatcher from its own development projects. It will be surveyed in 2004 by Department biologists to further assess its natural resources.

The reserve was established in 1999 when the property was purchased from The Nature Conservancy (TNC). TNC had acquired it from the Gatlin Corporation, with the understanding that the Department would in turn purchase the site from TNC. The Department had worked with Gatlin in 1995 to establish a conservation bank on the property, with the bank lands to eventually be given to the Department once all of the mitigation credits had been sold. However, a portion of the property had approval from the County of San Diego for residential development (Phase 2 of the conservation bank). When this development threatened to proceed, TNC and local community activists worked together with the Department to secure the acquisition of this potential development area, resulting in the eventual transfer of the entire property to the Department. TNC retains the rights to sell the remaining mitigation credits, and with each sale contributes money toward an endowment to manage the reserve. A draft management plan has been written for the Crestridge Ecological Reserve, and is expected to be released for public review and comment in 2003.

## Resource Inventory

During 2000 and 2001 an initial resource inventory was conducted on the property by various consultants. Table 5 lists the wildlife species detected on-site; a current vegetation map of the property is shown in Figure 7. A detailed discussion of these surveys will be included in the management plan being produced. In 2002 SCR biologists began monitoring activities on the reserve. Twenty bird point count stations were monitored in May 2002 by the SCR. Thirty-eight bird species were detected during the surveys, with the most common species (in order of abundance) being: wren-tit, mourning dove, spotted towhee, Western scrub jay, black-headed grosbeak, house finch, lesser goldfinch, and cliff swallow. Additional interesting findings during the survey work included four observations of coast horned lizard, or horned lizard scat. All of these observations were made along existing dirt roads on-site, both on the western portion of the property, as well as the eastern portion. One horned lizard observation was of a juvenile. Also, evidence of mountain lion activity was noted in the form of scat left on a dirt road. The scat did not appear to be fresh.

**Table 5.** Wildlife Species Occurring on the Crestridge ER - 2001-2002

<b>MAMMALS</b>			
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments*</b>
Virginia Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	I	
Audubon's (Desert) Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>		
California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>		
Botta's Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>		

Dusky-footed Woodrat	<i>Neotoma fuscipes</i>		
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>		
Gray fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>		
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>		
Mountain Lion	<i>Felis concolor</i>	MSCP	Scat (DFG)
Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>		
Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	MSCP	
<b>BIRDS</b>			
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments*</b>
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>		
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	FP	
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	SSC, MSCP	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>		
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	SSC, MSCP	
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>		
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>		
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	FP, MSCP	
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>		
California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>		Observed (DFG)
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	I	
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>		
Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>		
Greater Roadrunner	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>		
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>		
Common Poorwill	<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>		
White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>		
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>		
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>		
Costa's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i>		
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>		
Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>		
Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>		
Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>		
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>		
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>		
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>		
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>		
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>		
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>		
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>		
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>		

Hutton's Vireo	<i>Vireo huttoni</i>		
Western Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>		
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>		
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		
N. Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>		
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		
Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>		
Bushtit	<i>Psaltiriparus minimus</i>		
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>		
Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>		
Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>		
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>		
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>		
Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	MSCP	
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	SSC	Observed (DFG)
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>		
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>		
Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>		
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>		
California Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>		
American Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>		
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>		
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	I	
Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>		
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>		
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	SSC	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>		
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>		
MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>		
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>		
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>		
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>		
California Towhee	<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>		
So. Calif. Rufous-crowned Sparrow	<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>	SSC, MSCP	
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>		
Black-chinned Sparrow	<i>Spizella atrogularis</i>		
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>		
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>		
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>		
Golden-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>		
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>		
Fox Sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>		

Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>		
Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>		
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Guiraca caerulea</i>		
Lazuli Bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>		
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>		
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>		
Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>		
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>		
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>		
Pine Siskin	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>		
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>		
Lawrence's Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis lawrencei</i>		
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>		
<b>REPTILES</b>			
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments *</b>
Granite Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus orcutti</i>		
Western Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>		
Side-blotched Lizard	<i>Uta stansburiana</i>		
Coast Horned Lizard	<i>Phrynosoma coronatum</i>	SSC, MSCP	
Orange-throated Whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus hyperythrus</i>	SSC, MSCP	
Western Whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus tigris</i>		
Southern Alligator Lizard	<i>Elgaria multicarinata</i>		
Rosy Boa	<i>Lichanura trivirgata</i>		
Night Snake	<i>Hypsiglena torquata</i>		
Common Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis getulus californiae</i>		
Striped Racer	<i>Masticophis lateralis</i>		
Two-striped Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	SSC	
Western Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus viridis</i>		
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>			
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments *</b>
Pacific Tree Frog	<i>Hyla regilla</i>		
Slender Salamander	<i>Batrachoseps pacificus</i>		Observed (DFG)
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>			
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments *</b>
Mayfly	<i>Callibaetis</i> sp.		
Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma</i> sp.		
Pacific Spiketail	<i>Cordulegaster dorsalis</i>		
Flame Skimmer	<i>Libellula saturata</i>		
Neon Skimmer	<i>Libellula croceipennis</i>		

Blue-Eyed Darner	<i>Aeshna multicolor</i>		
Orange Pallid Band-Wing Grasshopper	<i>Arphia conspersa</i>		
Pallid-Winged Grasshopper	<i>Trimerotropis allidipennis</i>		
Broad-Winged Katydid	<i>Microcentrum rhombifolium</i>		
S. CA Chaparral Camel Cricket	<i>Gammarotettix genitalis</i>		
Tree Cricket	<i>Oecanthus sp.</i>		
Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus sp.</i>		
Plant Bug sp.	Genus <i>Miridae</i>		
Lace Bug	Family <i>Tingidae</i>		
Bee Assassin	<i>Apiomerus crassipes</i>		
Western Cone-Nose	<i>Triatoma protracta</i>		
Common Milkweed Bug	<i>Lygaeus kalmii</i>		
Large Milkweed Bug	<i>Oncopeltus fasciatus</i>		
Cicada	Family <i>Cicadidae</i>		
Red-Winged Grass Cicada	<i>Tibicinoides upreosparus</i>		
Wide-Headed Cicada	<i>Platypedia laticapitata</i>		
Spittle Bug	Family <i>Cercopidae</i>		
Leafhopper	Family <i>Cicadellidae</i>		
Tree Hopper	Family <i>Membracidae</i>		
Red-Gum Tree Psyllid	Family <i>Psyllidae</i>		
Green Lacewing	Family <i>Chrysopidae</i>		
Antlion	Family <i>Myrmeleontidae</i>		
Microlep Moth	<i>Chionodes ochreostrigella</i>		
Microlep Moth	<i>Amydria sp.</i>		
Microlep Moth	<i>Melisopus latiferreanus</i>		
White-Lined Spinx Moth	<i>Hyles lineata</i>		
Corn Earworm	<i>Helicoverpa zea</i>		
Black Cutworm	<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>		
Army Cutworm	<i>Euxoa auxiliaris</i>		
Snout Moth	Family <i>Pyrilidae</i>		
Snout Moth	<i>Hellula rogatalis</i>		
Snout Moth	<i>Jocara trabalis</i>		
Large Tolyte	<i>Toyte velleda</i>		
Tiger Moth sp.	Family <i>Arctiidae</i>		
Spotted Halisidota	<i>Halisidota maculata</i>		
Cabbage Looper	<i>Trichoplusia ni</i>		
Alfalfa Looper	<i>Autographa californica</i>		
Underwing Moth	<i>Catocala sp.</i>		
Omnivorous Looper	<i>Sabulodes aegrotata</i>		
Geometrid Moth	Family <i>Geometridae</i>		
Geometrid Moth	<i>Glaucina sp.</i>		
Geometrid Moth	<i>Semiothisa neptaria</i>		
Anise Swallowtail	<i>Papilio zelicaon</i>		
Western Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio rutulus</i>		

Pale Swallowtail	<i>Papilio eurymedon</i>		
Checkered White	<i>Pontia protodice</i>		
Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		
Pacific Sara Orange-Tip	<i>Anthocharis sara sara</i>		
Desert Orange-Tip	<i>Anthocharis cethura</i>		
Orange Sulphur	<i>Colias eurytheme</i>		
Sleepy Orange	<i>Eurema nicippe</i>		
Dainty Sulphur	<i>Nathalis iole</i>		
Hermes Copper	<i>Lycaena hermes</i>	SA	San Diego Co. endemic. See comments below.
Sylvan Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium sylvinus</i>		
Gold-Hunter's Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium auretteum spadix</i>		
Mt. Mahogany Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium tetra</i>		
Hedgerow Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium saepium</i>		
Bramble Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys dumetorum perplexing</i>		
Brown Elfin	<i>Callophrys augustinus</i>		
Gray Hairstreak	<i>Strymon melinus</i>		
Marine Blue	<i>Leptotes marina</i>		
Edward's Blue	<i>Hemiargus ceraunus gyas</i>		
Reakirt's Blue	<i>Hemiargus isola alce</i>		
Bernardino Blue	<i>Euphilotes batoides bernardino</i>		
Acmon Blue	<i>Plebejus acmon acmon</i>		
Southern Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche lygadamus australis</i>		
Behr's Metalmark	<i>Apodemia mormo virgulti</i>		
Gulf Fritillary	<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>		
Semiramis Fritillary	<i>Speyeria coronis semiramis</i>		
Comstock's Fritillary	<i>Speyeria callippe comstocki</i>		
Gabb's Checkerspot	<i>Chlosyne gabbii</i>		
Mourning Cloak	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>		
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		
West Coast Lady	<i>Vanessa annabella</i>		
Common Buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia</i>		
California Sister	<i>Adelpha bredowii</i>		
California Ringlet	<i>Coenonympha californica</i>		
Queen	<i>Danaus gillippus</i>		
Mournful Duskywing	<i>Erynnis tristis</i>		
Funereal Duskywing	<i>Erynnis funeralis</i>		
Harbison's Dun Skipper	<i>Pyrgus albescens</i>		
Western Checkered Skipper	<i>Euphyes vestris harbisoni</i>		
Fiery Skipper	<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>		
Rural Skipper	<i>Ochlodes agricola</i>		
Common Crane fly	<i>Holorusia hespera</i>		
Mosquito sp.	Family Culicidae		

Black (Buffalo) Fly sp.	Family <i>Simuliidae</i>		
Snipe Fly	Family <i>Rhagionidae</i>		
March Fly	Family <i>Bibionidae</i>		
Robber Fly	Family <i>Asilidae</i>		
Long-Legged Fly	Family <i>Dolichopodidae</i>		
Muscid Fly	Family <i>Muscidae</i>		
Bee Fly	<i>Bombylius albicapillus</i>		
Large Bee Fly	<i>Bombylius major</i>		
Bee Fly	<i>Bombylius lancifer</i>		
Bee Fly	<i>Conophorus fenestratus</i>		
Bee Fly	<i>Exoprosopa</i> sp.		
Black-Winged Bee Fly	<i>Hemipenthes sinuosa jaennickiana</i>		
Bee Fly	<i>Lepidanthrax</i> sp.		
Tachinid Fly	<i>Archytas apicifer</i>		
Syrphid Flower Fly sp.	Family <i>Syrphidae</i>		
Flesh Fly sp.	<i>Parasarcophaga</i> sp.		
Lauxaniidae Fly	<i>Trigonometopus</i> sp.		
Green Bottle Fly	<i>Phaenicia sericata</i>		
Blue Bottle Fly	<i>Calliphora/Paralucilia</i> sp		
Melolonthinae Scarab Beetle	<i>Serica</i> sp.		
Scarab Beetle	<i>Cremastocheilus schaumi</i>		
Bear Beetle	<i>Paracotalpa ursina</i>		
Click Beetle	Family <i>Elateridae</i>		
Checkered Beetle	<i>Trichodes</i> sp.		
Convergent Lady Beetle	<i>Hippodamia convergens</i>		
Nine-Spotted Ladybird	<i>Coccinella novemnotata</i>		
Ash Gray Ladybird	<i>Olla v-nigrum</i>		
Shining Flower Beetle	Family <i>Phalacridae</i>		
Ironclad Beetle	<i>Phloeodes pustulosus</i>		
Blister Beetle sp.	<i>Meloidae zonitis</i>		
Blister Beetle sp.	<i>Lytta</i> sp.		
Stink Beetle	<i>Eleodes</i> sp.		
Wooly Darkling Beetle	<i>Cratidus osculans</i>		
Green Fruit Beetle	<i>Cotinus mutabilis</i>		
Carpet Beetle	<i>Attagenus</i> sp.		
Carpet Beetle	<i>Anthrenus</i> sp.		
Tumbling Flower Beetle	<i>Mordella atrata</i>		
Knaus' Saxinis	<i>Saxinis knausi</i>		
Yucca Weevil	<i>Scyphorus yuccae</i>		
Argentine Ant	<i>Iridomyrmex humilis</i>		
California Harvester Ant	<i>Pogonomyrmex californicus</i>		
Honey Ant	<i>Myrmecocystus melliger</i>		
Formicid Ant	Family <i>Formicidae</i>		
Velvety Tree Ant	<i>Liometopum occidentale</i>		



Yellow Jacket	<i>Vespula pensylvanica</i>		
Polistes Wasp	<i>Polistes</i> sp.		
Golden Polistes Wasp	<i>Polistes fuscatus aurifer</i>		
Sphecic Wasp	Family <i>Sphecidae</i>		
Blue Mud Wasp	<i>Chalybion californicum</i>		
Tarantula Wasp	<i>Pepsis</i> sp.		
Gall Wasp	Family <i>Cynipidae</i>		
Scrub Oak Gall Wasp	<i>Andricus/Disholcaspis</i> sp.		
Parasitic Scrub Oak Gall Wasp	Family <i>Torymidae</i>		
Wood Wasp	<i>Sirex aureolatus</i>		
Plasterer Bee	Subfamily <i>Colletinae</i>		
Sweat Bee	Family <i>Halictidae</i>		
Mining Bee	Subfamily <i>Andreninae</i>		
Digger Bee	Subfamily <i>Anthophorinae</i>		
Valley Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa varipuncta</i>		
California Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa californica</i>		
Carpenter Bee	<i>Ceratina</i> sp.		
Vosnesenski's Bumblebee	<i>Bombus vosnesenskii</i>		
Edward's Bumblebee	<i>Bombus edwardsi</i>		
Crotch's Bumblebee	<i>Bombus crotchii</i>		
European Honeybee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>		
Tarantula	<i>Aphonopelmus</i> sp.		
Wolf Spider sp.	<i>Lycosa</i> sp.		
Funnel Spider	<i>Agelenopsis operta</i>		
Trash-Web Spider	<i>Cyclosa turbinata</i>		
Jumping Spider	Family <i>Salticidae</i>		
Red Jumping Spider	<i>Phidippus formisus</i>		
Crab Spider	Family <i>Thomisidae</i>		
Spider Mite	Family <i>Tetranychidae</i>		
Brown Dog Tick	<i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i>		
Brown Garden Snail	<i>Helix aspera</i>		

\* All records from "Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan for the Crestridge Ecological Reserve", Conservation Biology Institute, February 2002 except those marked "DFG", indicating of Department of Fish and Game staff origin.

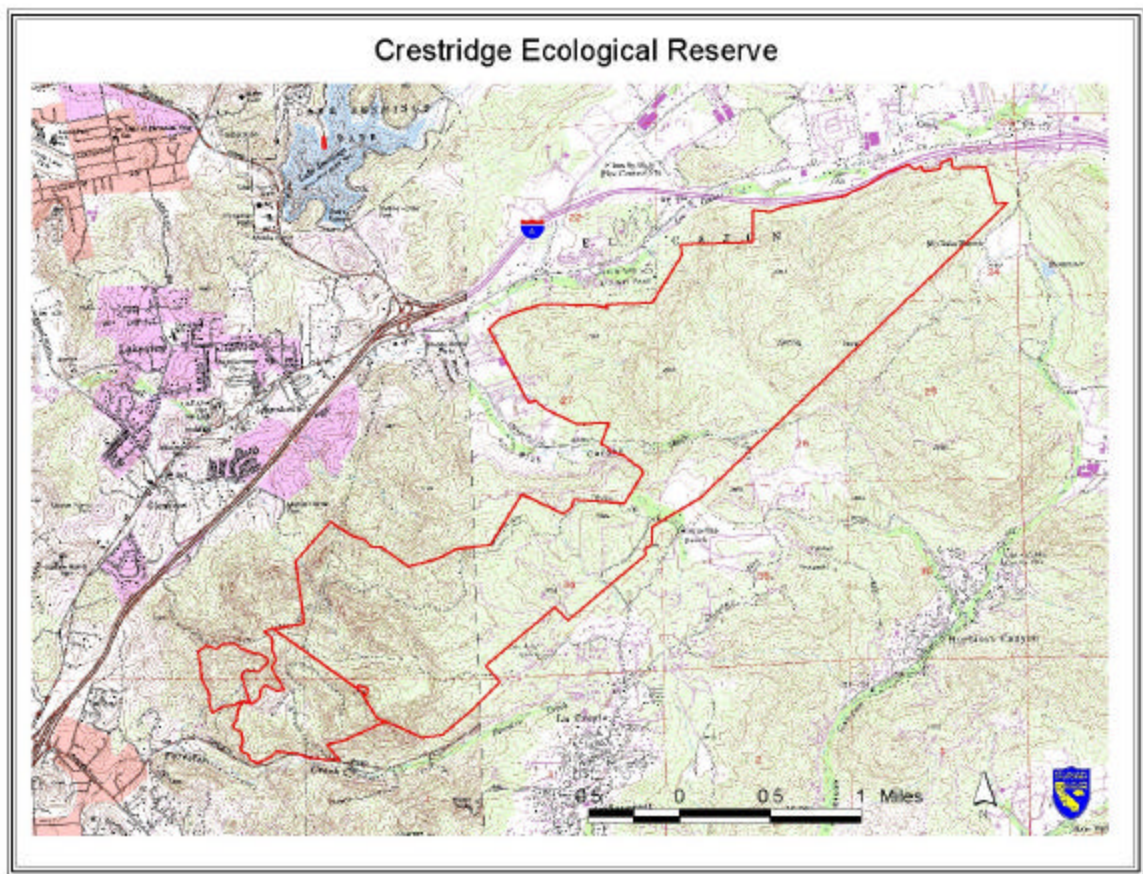
Status codes : SE-State endangered; FE-Federal endangered; FT-Federal threatened; FP-State fully protected; SSC-California Species of Special Concern; SA-"Special Animal" DFG designation; MSCP-MSCP covered species; I-Introduced.

Additional comments: Surveys were conducted for the Hermes Copper butterfly (*Hermelycaena hermes*) in areas known to support this species in past years. Due to drought conditions only three individuals were observed in the spring and summer, a significant decline from past years. In addition, a survey in late May of 2002 of the San Diego thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*) population on the slopes above Rios Canyon (i.e., Thornmint Hill) indicated that no thornmint flowered in 2002. Again, severe

drought is assumed to be the cause, since a similar lack of thornmint flowering occurred on the Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area in 2002 as well.

## Management Plan

A draft management plan for the Crestridge ER is near completion. It is anticipated that the draft plan will be circulated for public review and comment in 2003. Public comments will be received through the CEQA process, and incorporated into the final management plan where appropriate.



**Figure 6.** Map of Crestridge Ecological Reserve

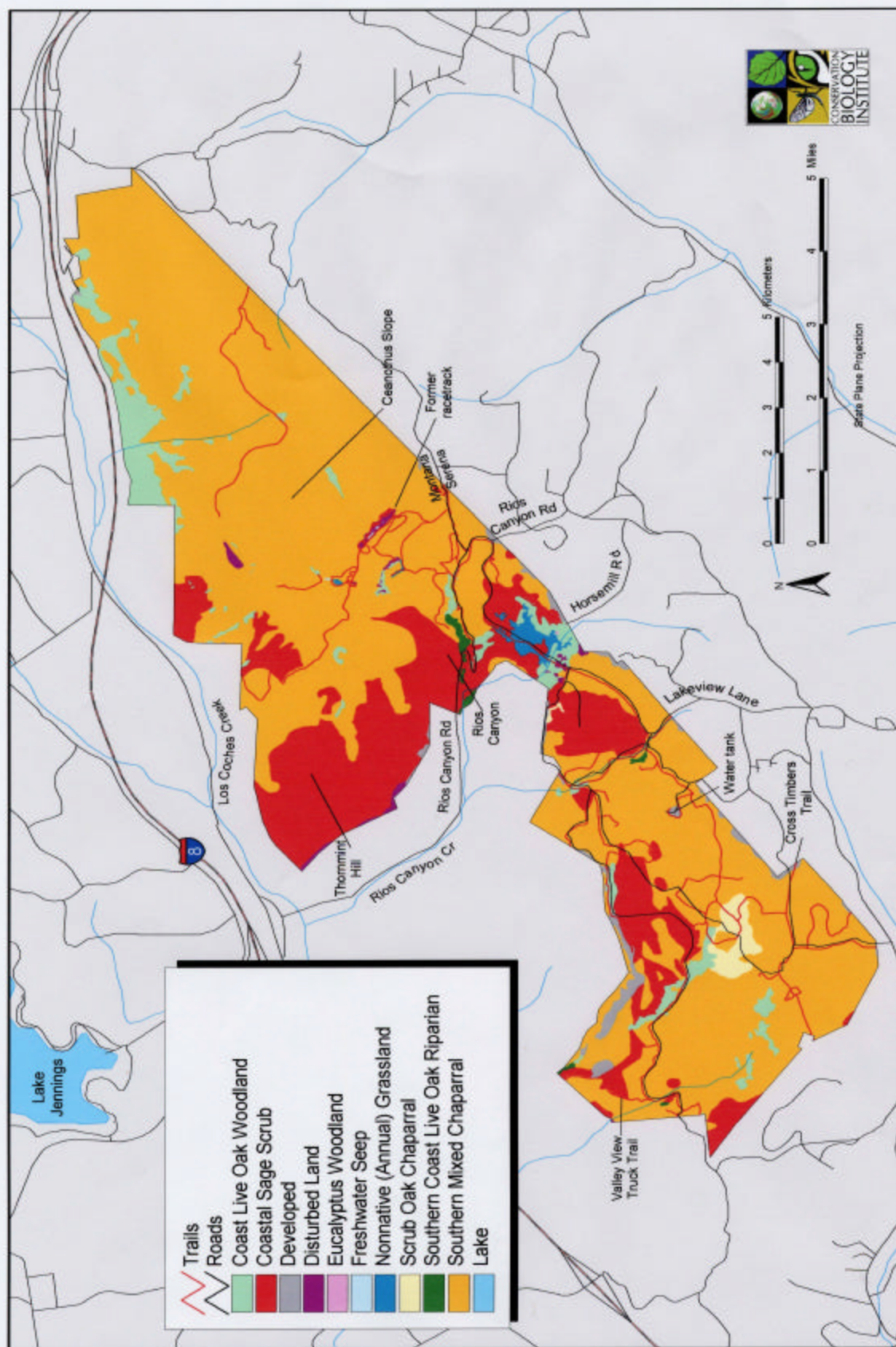


Figure 3-1. Vegetation Communities of Crestridge Ecological Reserve

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**Figure 7.** Vegetation Communities of Crestridge Ecological Reserve